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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

JUL - 1 1993

June 8, 1993

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
IN REPLY REFER TO:

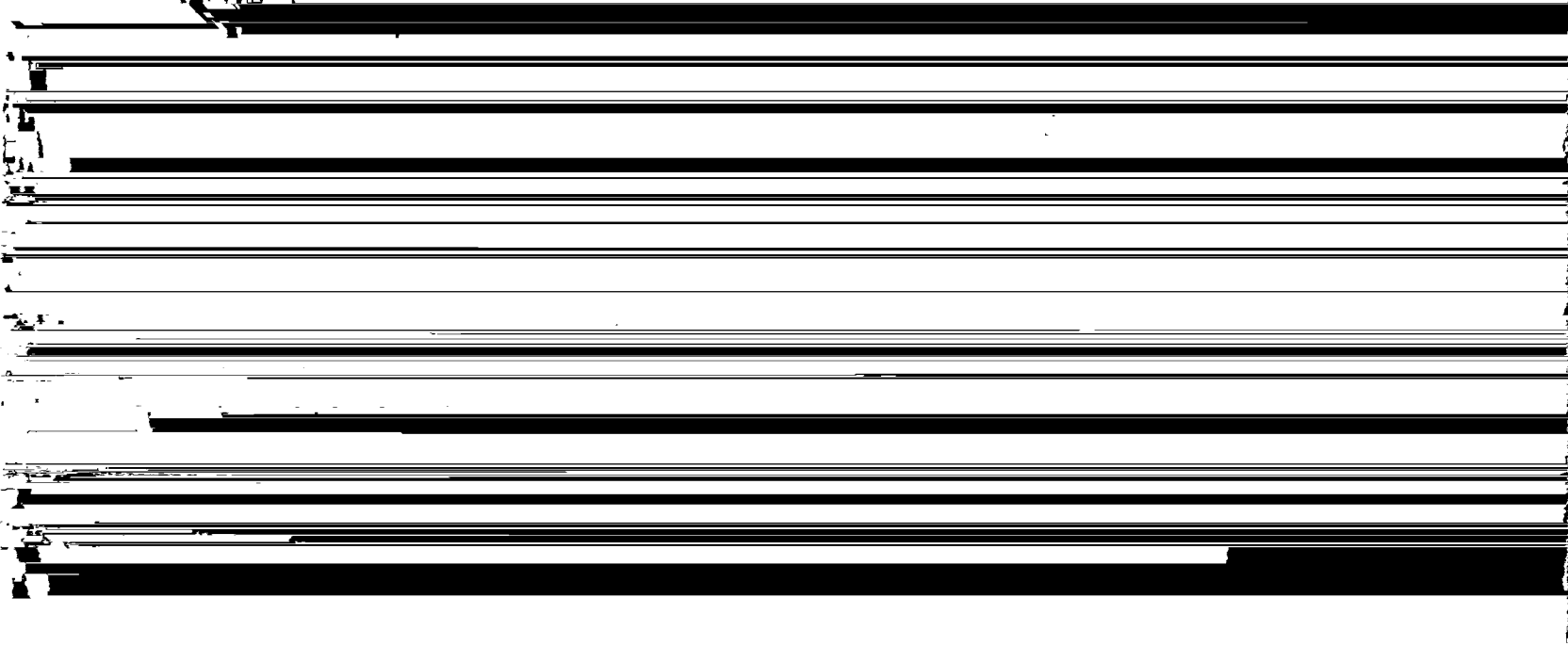
7330-7/1700A3

Honorable Paul E. Kanjorski
House of Representatives
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kanjorski:

This is in reply to your letter of May 13, 1993, in which you inquired on behalf of your constituent, John Sokol of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, regarding the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Notice) in PR Docket No. 92-235, 57 FR 54034 (1992). This Notice proposes comprehensive changes to the Commission's Rules governing the private land mobile radio services operating in the frequency bands below 512 MHz.

The proposals in the Notice reflect to a large extent concepts and proposals submitted in the initial inquiry stages of this proceeding. None of the proposals set forth in the Notice, however, are engraved in stone. Indeed, the proposals represent our best judgment at this stage of the proceeding on steps that must be taken to improve the regulatory climate for users of the private land mobile radio spectrum below 512 MHz. I have enclosed for your information a copy of that part of the Notice that describes the numerous proposals, plus a discussion paper released March 1, 1993. In sum, these rules would create more channels for public safety use than any previous action by the Commission, without requiring replacement of radio systems. With regard to radio call boxes, they were not specifically addressed in the Notice primarily because no commenter raised that issue in the earlier stages.

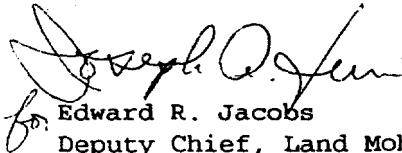


Honorable Paul Kanjorski

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We want to thank you for your interest in this proceeding. We expect final rules to be issued in 1994.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph A. Jacobs", is written over the typed name.

Edward R. Jacobs
Deputy Chief, Land Mobile and
and Microwave Division

Enclosures

PAUL E. KANJORSKI

11TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, FINANCE
AND URBAN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN:
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC GROWTH
AND CREDIT FORMATION

COMMITTEE ON POST OFFICE
AND CIVIL SERVICE

DEMOCRATIC WHIP-AT-LARGE



Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515-3811

May 13, 1993

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

2429 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3811
(202) 225-6511

DISTRICT OFFICE:

10 E. SOUTH STREET BUILDING
WILKES-BARRE, PA 18701-2397
(717) 825-2200

TOLL FREE HELP-LINE
(800) 222-2346

Mr. James Quello
Acting Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Quello:

John L. Sokol, Jr., Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, has contacted me regarding the proposed reassignment of radio spectrum frequencies.

I would very much appreciate your attention to Mr. Sokol's concerns. His letter, which I have attached, concisely describes a number of potential problems with the FCC proposal, including the high cost of replacing existing radios and the unavailability

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FCC Letter
PR Docket Number 92-235

Because of the far-reaching effects on the safety of our patrons, who are also your constituents, your assistance with these issues is critical. This is especially true because Congress has stated that the protection of the safety of life and property be given priority in frequency allocation matters, as mandated by the Federal Communications Authorization Act of 1983, House Rep. No. 98-356, 98th Cong., 1st Sess. 28 (1983).

Enclosed are comments submitted by the Pennsylvania Turnpike



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA TURNPIKE COMMISSION
HARRISBURG 17105

JOHN L. SOKOL, JR., P.E.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 25, 1993

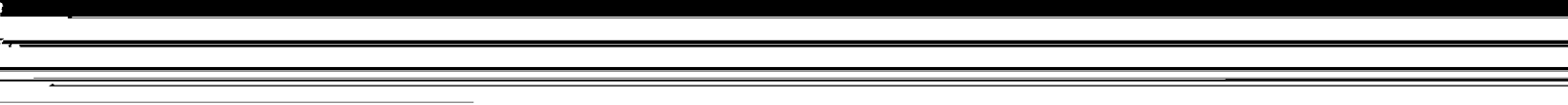

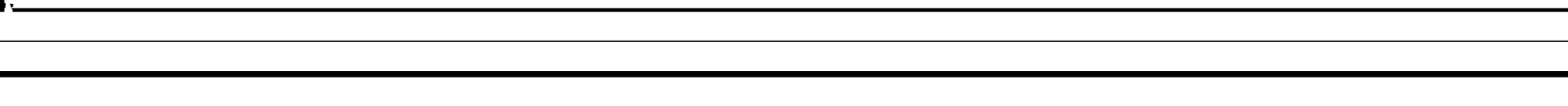

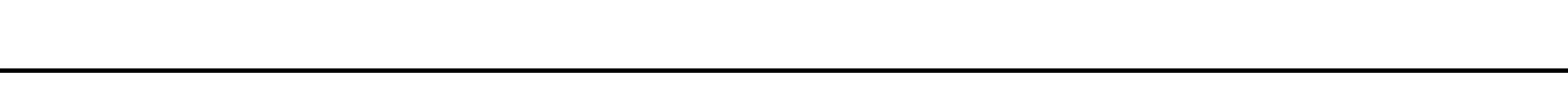

Mr. Ralph Haller
Chief, Private Radio Bureau
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D. C. 20554

Re: PR Docket Number 92-235 (Part 88)

Dear Mr. Haller:

The Pennsylvania Turnpike is a public highway entity operating in the private land mobile radio (PLMR) spectrum band. As part of this operation, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission currently owns and operates its VHF system in the 150 - 174 MHz band. In conjunction with our VHF system, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission also owns and operates various UHF repeating systems in the 450 - 470 MHz band, and an extensive call box system in the 72 - 76 MHz band. These systems are used to support the fire, ambulance, police, automotive, and maintenance services for the 491 miles of the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Therefore, it is with deep concern that the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission must comment on PR Docket Number 92-235 (further referred to as Part 88).

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission agrees there is a need for the more efficient use of the PLMR spectrum. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has taken the first step, Part 88, in striding towards this goal. The implementation of new, more spectrum efficient technology is a must if the industry is to keep up with current and future communication demands. While this new technology could benefit all who use PLMR



Mr. Ralph Haller
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Page 2

Second, Part 88 as it is now written, is requiring the use of technology that is not yet available to the public. Additionally, this technology is expected to be in use by a specific date. These requirements raise the following questions: When will this technology be available? Will the technology be available in time to allow migration or wholesale replacement? Who will be able to manufacture it? Will the technology be made available to multiple manufacturers? How much will it cost? The FCC should take the steps necessary to ensure that a timely, broad-based market be established and cost monitored. A reasonable migration time should be established based upon when the technology is available, not by arbitrarily establishing a deadline date. Consideration for funding to cover the cost of migration should also be factored into the deadline date.

Third, radio call boxes are all but ignored in Part 88. Under current Part 90 and the proposed Part 88 (88.1263), call box output power is restricted to 1 watt. Yet, adjacent channel paging services are allowed to operate control links at powers in the 250 - 300 watt ERP range. The FCC must recognize the importance of call box usage. These boxes carry information essential to life and loss of property and should be protected accordingly! Stricter output power limitations on paging control links is a must. The use of directional antenna should be a requirement. Frequency coordination through the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials should also be required. Agencies using call boxes must be protected from these high-powered services.

Public safety cannot be compromised. It is the duty of both the Federal Communication Commission and the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission to provide the general public with the best safety services possible. If Part 88 does not consider SMR exclusion from the public safety band, along with cost, time, and protection for radio call box operation, it will become almost impossible for the Pennsylvania Turnpike to continue to provide our patrons and employees with the best fire, ambulance, police, automotive and maintenance services available. Help the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission better serve our patrons and employees by considering the above mentioned suggestions and encompassing them into Part 88.

Sincerely,



John L. Sokol, Jr., P.E.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

cc: Mr. J. B. Wilson
Mr. A. C. Peters
Mr. J. A. Hawkins
File